

Love Song (Austrian version)

for a group of people

Alexis Porfiriadis

2016

The piece has a minimum duration of 6 minutes. During **each minute** at least one action from category **B** and at least one from categories **A or C** should be performed simultaneously or in any combination (meaning that at least two actions should be performed during each minute).

When the duration of an action is not determined then its duration can vary from 1 sec to 1 minute. Some of the actions, which have to be performed by the group 'assistant', have 'indeterminate' duration, meaning that they can last more than one minute. Nevertheless, even if such an action is performed during the whole duration of the concert that does not change the general condition of performing at least one action from category B and at least one from the categories A, or C during each minute. For example, if an action from category C begins on the second minute and last until the end of the performance, the group should nevertheless chose at least one action from category **B** and one from categories **A or C** for each of the third, forth etc minutes.

All decisions on the preparation and performance of *Love Song* should be taken **collectively** by the group (at least five persons) and **without the help or guidance** of any third person (conductor, director, manager, etc). The resultant realization should be the product of a conversation between the performers and it should **by no means be decided by one single person**.

Players are invited to perform all actions in a natural way. Extreme theatrical gestures are strongly discouraged. It is enough to perform the actions with the utmost dedication and serenity. The sources of the Christian texts can be read too, however it is not necessary for the performer to do so. Some of the actions should be performed by an assistant of the group. The assistant **does not take part** in the preparation of the version. S/he is only being informed about what s/he has to do and when.

With the term 'sound' both tone or/and noise or anything in between is meant.



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A.

1.

Sit among the audience and read quietly to them the following text (one performer):

When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. (Leviticus 19:33-34)

2.

Write the following text on ten small paper-sheets and offer them to ten members of the audience, wishing them personally health and happiness for the New Year.

When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. (Leviticus 19:9-10)

3.

At least three group members read quietly the following text. Performers begin together but each of them continues in their own pace.

He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt. (Deuteronomy 10:18-19)

4.

A group member presses the right pedal of the piano. At least three other group members read with normal voice the following text having their heads in the piano lid towards the strings.

Do not oppress a foreigner; you yourselves know how it feels to be foreigners, because you were foreigners in Egypt. (Exodus 23:9)

5.

Record at least four group members reading the following text simultaneously prior to the performance. Play the recording during the concert. Performers begin together but each person reads the text in his/her own pace.

So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me, says the Lord Almighty. (Malachi 3:5)

6.

The whole group reads quietly the following text once, saying one word each, one after the other. Read it clockwise or counter-clockwise.

As for the foreigner who does not belong to your people Israel but has come from a distant land because of your name - for they will hear of your great name and your mighty hand and your outstretched arm - when they come and pray toward this temple, then hear from heaven, your dwelling place. Do whatever the foreigner asks of you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your own people Israel, and may know that this house I have built bears your Name. (1 Kings 8:41-44)

7.

Go to a member of the audience and whisper the following text in his/her ear. At least two performers and two different audience members.

No stranger had to spend the night in the street, for my door was always open to the traveller. (Job 31:32)

8.

All group members go behind the audience. The whole group reads quietly the following text. Performers begin together but each member reads in his/her own pace.

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. (Matthew 25:25-36)

9.

Project the following text onto a wall.

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body - whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free - and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many. (Corinthians 12:12-14)

10.

Make a (reading) canon using the following text (all group members).

For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself". (Galatians 5:14)

11.

When the members of the audience are in the performance space and before the concert begins, the assistant should find a person who has no connection to the ensemble whatsoever and ask him/her to read the following text quietly from his/her seat when s/he will be told to do so. The member of the audience should be aware that s/he has maximum time of 1 minute to complete the reading.

He asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he travelled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. (Luke 10:29-37)

12.

The members of the group make a circle using the whole space trying to keep eye contact with each other. They read the following text in the following way: each syllable of the text should be read simultaneously by all group members. After each syllable one-second pause should be made. [Example: *Re (1 sec) mem (1 sec) ber (1sec) etc.*]

Remember to welcome strangers in your homes. There were some who did that and welcomed angels without knowing it. (Hebrews 13:2)

13.

Call from your cell-phone a friend of yours. Your friend should be informed before the concert that the call will be part of an art project and s/he does not have to say anything. S/he just has to hear and hang up. Read him/her the following text. Your friend should be, in the best case, an FPÖ, ÖVP or BZÖ member or sympathizer.

Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. (Romans 12:13)

14.

Call the artist Aldo Giannotti (0043 650 4126102) and ask him to make a statement on the refugee crisis in Europe by using the following text to create a drawing (the drawing has to include the text!). Copy the work (after asking for his permission) and give a copy to each of the members of the audience.

Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me. (Matthew 25:37-40)

*Note: to perform **action 12** the group has to be aware that it will probably be necessary to take some time from the previous minute for achieving performing the action in one minute.*

B.

1.

A quiet steady scratching noise, during the whole minute, without any pauses.

2.

A quiet steady tapping noise, during the whole minute, without any pauses.

3.

A quiet steady dragging noise, during the whole minute, without any pauses.

4.

A quiet steady ripping noise, during the whole minute, without any pauses.

5.

A quiet extremely complex sequence of tones, using low, middle, and high register, during the first twenty seconds of the minute.

6.

Different quiet harmonics, lasting various durations. When more than one performer are using the action, do not try to build chords with the harmonics of your co-players. Just play your harmonics.

7.

Different very quiet long tones, using low, middle, and high register.

8.

An one-minute abstract of a liturgical song of your dogma, played by your mobile phone, tablet, etc.

9.

A steady, middle dynamic, maximal bow pressure noise from a string instrument, lasting twenty-five seconds.

10.

A quiet harmonic tone from a string instrument lasting for thirty seconds.

11.

A quiet complex sequence of harmonic tones using low, middle, and high register from a string instrument.

12.

Thirty different sounds on a string instrument performed in thirty or sixty seconds.

13.

A continuous quiet tremolo (using your hands or soft stickers) on the low part of the piano strings, lasting the whole minute, without any pauses.

14.

Twelve different pizzicati in the middle register of the piano strings using your fingers.

15.

A quiet, extremely complex sequence of tones in the upper register of the piano.

16.

Thirty different sounds on a piano performed in thirty or sixty seconds.

17.

A continuous quiet tremolo (using your hands or soft stickers) on a low register percussion instrument.

18.

One middle dynamic strike on a gong. Do not make the strike at the beginning or ending of the minute. Mute the gong when the duration of one minute is reached.

19.

Single, middle dynamic strikes on a triangle every five seconds of the minute.

20.

A quiet extremely complex sequence of tones on a marimba or vibraphone (without motor) lasting at least thirty seconds.

21.

A quiet harmonic tone from a wind instrument lasting for thirty seconds.

22.

A quiet multiphonic from a wind instrument lasting for ten seconds.

23.

Thirty different sounds on a wind instrument performed in thirty or sixty seconds.

24.

A quiet extremely complex sequence of sounds from a wind instrument lasting at least thirty seconds.

25.

A sound, made through a combination of tone(s) and noise(s), by (a) wind and (a) string instrument(s), lasting a whole breath.

26.

A sound lasting a whole minute, made through a combination of tone(s) and noise(s), by at least two string instruments.

27.

A short middle dynamic sound made by piano and percussion.

28.

A complex long sound made by piano, wind, string and percussion instrument(s), made through a combination of tone(s) and noise(s).

C.

1.

Buy small and cheap Christmas-time gifts for your co-players. Offer the gifts during the minute. Do not open them. Do that at home after the concert. At least three group members.

2.

Write a Christmas card to a person you love and you did not see him/her for a long time. Give the cards to the assistant for mailing them. Actions should be performed in concert (caution: cards should really be mailed by the assistant after the concert within three days). At least three group members. Duration: indeterminate.

3.

Prepare Glühwein and offer a glass to the audience. Action should be performed by the assistant. Duration: indeterminate

4.

At least three group members give each a small used Christmas article from their homes to members of the audience.

5.

One or two members of the group prepare homemade Christmas cookies. They bring them to the performance space. The assistant should offer some to the audience during the concert. Duration: indeterminate

6.

A video from any 'New Year's Concert' in 'Musikverein Wien' is projected somewhere in the performance space, without sound.

7.

Tell the audience a story of your experiences as a child during Christmas time. At least three group members simultaneously. Performers begin together but each member talks in his/her own pace.

8.

Find representatives of pro-refugees organisations. Invite them to attend the concert and to bring info-material of their organisations. Distribute the material to the audience.

9.

Sit among the audience and tell them an one-minute part of a Christmas story that your mother/father used to tell you. At least two group members simultaneously. Performers begin together but each member talks in his/her own pace.

10.

Buy very cheap small gifts for all members of the audience. During the one-minute duration of this action all members of the group offer the gifts to the audience wishing them Merry Christmas. The gift has to be the same kind for all people.

11.

Stand up and recount to the audience the story of your favorite Christmas movie. At least three group members simultaneously. Performers begin together but each member talks in his/her own pace.

12.

Recount to the audience the story of the best Christmas time you ever had. As many members of the group as possible. Performers begin together but each member talks in his/her own pace.

13.

Recount to the audience the story of the worse Christmas time you ever had. As many members of the group as possible. Performers begin together but each member talks in his/her own pace.

14.

Tell the audience what Christmas means for you. All group members simultaneously. Performers begin together but each member talks in his/her own pace.



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